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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK WITH THE HAWAII
RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION TO INFORM FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS OF
RECENTLY UPDATED FOOD SAFETY RULES AND INDUSTRY STANDARDS
TO ENSURE ALL PROPER SAFETY MEASURES ARE TAKEN IN ALL FOOD
ESTABLISHMENTS IN HAWAII.

WHEREAS, improper handling of food at eateries and other food service establishments gives rise to public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the cross contamination of food by employees who handle food and do not observe proper food safety procedures is a public health issue; and

WHEREAS, employees at eateries who serve food may also be asked to perform tasks such as cleaning tables or facilities, or handling financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, concerned citizens have observed these employees perform cleaning duties, serve food, and perform financial transactions without wearing gloves or washing their hands between such tasks; and

WHEREAS, a failure to wear gloves or wash one's hands between serving food and performing financial transactions, or cleaning tables or facilities, may cause the food to become cross-contaminated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 321-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department of Health is authorized to adopt rules it deems necessary for the public health and safety for establishments where food for human consumption is prepared and offered for sale; and WHEREAS, on September 1, 2017, the Department of Health updated its Food Safety Code to adopt the 2013 Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code almost verbatim; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of Health's updated Food Safety Code is one of the most up to date in the country and has been in place for a little over 1.5 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health and Hawaii Restaurant Association are urged to work together to ensure that all establishments, particularly smaller establishments like food trucks, are informed about the updated food safety rules and updated industry standards to ensure all proper safety measures are taken in all food service establishments in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Hawaii Restaurant Association are urged to collaborate on any additional amendments that may need to be added to existing rules and submit a report of their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Executive Director of the Hawaii Restaurant Association.